Nash, Mrs. Bessie Hursey

From a Mustard Seed.

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FROM A MUSTARD SEED

PART II, 1973 — 1978

A History of the First Baptist Church

Hamlet, North Carolina

FROM A MUSTARD SEED

PART II, 1973 – 1978

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A History of the First Baptist Church

Hamlet, North Carolina

MRS. BESSIE HURSEY NASH

Author & Historian

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First Baptist Church of Hamlet, N. C.

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ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

The task of updating the book, *FROM A MUSTARD SEED,* A History of The First Baptist Church, Hamlet, North Carolina, to June 30, 1978, has been interesting and exciting.

I commend Mrs. Bessie Hursey Nash for an outstanding job of compiling and editing this history update. A big thanks to her husband Jacob Daniel Nash, Sr., for his continued interest and help.

My sincere thanks to Mrs. Nash's sister, Miss Mertin Hursey for proofreading the material.

To Mr. L. H. Williamson, Dr. W. M. Pearce and Rev. John Freeman for proofreading and suggestions, I owe a debt of gratitude.

For typing the manuscript, a genuine thanks goes to Mrs. Joyce Rivers and Mrs. Sylvia Greene.

To Mr. Edgar Sparks, our publisher, I express deep gratitude for the help, selection of pictures and countless suggestions in making this a more meaningful book.

Also, I wish to thank the church, the Deacons and our 100th Anniversary Committee for having this updated history published.

Billy G. Rivers

Present renovated First Baptist Church, Hamlet, N. C.

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Dr. Billy G. Rivers
Pastor

Rev. John Freeman
Assistant Pastor and
Minister of Education

Bessie Hursey Nash
Historian

HISTORY OF THE FIRST BAPTISH CHURCH
Hamlet, N. C. 1973-1978

"Though thy beginning was small, yet thy latter end should greatly increase." Job 8:7

The information in this first chapter was not available at the time the history of the church *FROM A MUSTARD SEED* was written. Recently such information has been made available which should have been included in the first chapter *FROM A MUSTARD SEED.*

On October 3, 1974, Mrs. M. A. McKeithan died. She was 88 years old and had been a member of First Baptist Church for many years. After her death, her granddaughter, Mrs. Golda McKeithan Brigman, made a search of her grandmother's trunk. In the bottom of the trunk she found a document for which many hours searching had been spent. The sheets of paper were old and fragile and the contents were written in pencil, which had faded through the years. The first sheet, dated September 28, 1878, contained the names of the twenty-seven charter members of the Hamlet Baptist Church. It was written and signed by John G. McKeithan, who was the first church clerk and also the father of Moses Augustus McKeithan, Mrs. M. A. McKeithan's husband.

The charter members were:

T. B. Newberry, pastor
Rebecca J. Barentine
Stevie V. Barentine
Mary Barentine
Sallie J. Bristow
Morgan Taylor
A. J. Taylor
A. G. McKeithan
(Brother-in-law of J. G. McKeithan)
Mrs. Mary McKeithan
(wife of A. G. McKeithan)
Nancy Taylor
William M. Taylor
Julia Taylor
Mollie Taylor
William R. Taylor
Ellen Bryce
Christiana Johnson
Mary Register
Mary J. Yates
Margaret A. McKeithan
(Mother of A. G. McKeithan)

Rev. Thomas Benjamin Newberry
1st Pastor

Nancy Yates
John G. McKeithan
Walter J. Wyatt
Caroline Gibson
(Sister of A. G. McKeithan)
Martha D. Taylor
Martha A. Batton
C. B. Newberry
Margaret Moriah McKeithan
(wife of John G. McKeithan)
(*Comments in parenthesis were not on the original list)

Immediately after the organization of the church the members began thinking of a church building. The following members donated as indicated:

T. B. Newberry	$11.00	
Stevie Barentine	20.00	
Sallie J. Bristow	1.00	
A. J. Taylor	5.00	
A. G. McKeithan	10.00	
William M. Taylor	1.00	
William R. Taylor	1.00	
Mary J. Yates	2.00	
John G. McKeithan	10.00	work $3.00
Walter J. Wyatt	40.00	

Donations from non-member subscribers:

William Lampley	$10.00	
Mr. &. Mrs. Young	10.00	paid $2.00
Zibe Gibson	1.00	paid .75
J. J. Johnson	5.00	
A. B. McDonald	5.00	
D. M. Henderson	5.00	paid 1.00
B. Whitney	5.00	paid 5.00
John N. Register	10.00	
J. Shortridge	20.00	paid 20.00
Mrs. Wyatt	1.00	paid 1.00
W. T. Tucker	3.00	paid 3.00
N. C. McDonald	1.00	paid $1.00
Angus McDonald	1.00	paid 1.00
J. R. McDonald	work 1.00	paid 4.00

Building Committee:

J. J. Johnson
J. G. McKeithan
W. J. Wyatt

Mrs. Golda McKeithan also found a contract with specifications for the church building. The contract was incomplete as to contractor and cost of building materials. Payments were to be made in 3 installments as the work progressed.

"The church was to be constructed in the best workman like manner out of dry lumber. The building was to be 25' x 40'. The floor was to be tongued and grooved to fit neatly and smoothly. The room was to be 13 ft. high with one door 4' x 10', 8 windows with 12 lights 10" x 20" glass, ceiled 4' from floor with tongued and grooved lumber 1 1/4" x 6". The belfry on top of church was to be 7 ft. square, 7 1/2 ft. pitch hip roof. The outside was to be weatherboarded with dressed lumber. There were to be 22 benches 1 1/2" x 15" and 10 ft. long. The steps were to be 5 ft. long, 12" tread and 7" rise. The pulpit was to be a raised platform 2 ft. high, 8 ft. long and 6 ft. wide neatly boxed."

Mrs. Allen Powers has in her possession a picture of Mr. Allen Powers' first home in Hamlet when he was a boy of 8 or 10 years old. The home was the two-story house on the corner of Raleigh and Charlotte streets known as the Roseborough House. In the picture the Powers family was standing on the front porch and to the left about one-half of the right side of the Hamlet Baptist Church toward the rear could be seen. From this picture and the specifications one can see what the church was like.

Mr. J. G. McKeithan also made some notes on materials used and their cost. Imagine the percentage in the cost of the following items 100 years ago and now!

October 29th (1878) 9,000 shingles at $2.00 per thousand. Paid cash $18.00 to J. W. McLeod, Abbottsburg, N. C., which was sent by registered mail — cost 13¢.

Lumber bill	J. S. Yow	$102.00
Nails		9.25
Freight on nails		.70
Piling Lumber	(B. Gibson)	.75
Hauling shingles	(J. B. Young)	2.00

November 16, 1878 First installment on house	$46.66
December 17, 1878 To cash-paid J. J. Johnson (days work)	1.00
December 27, 1878 To cash-paid John Shortridge for deed	1.00
August, 1879 To cash-paid for housing lumber	1.50
August, 1879 To cash-paid for pulpit	.80
September 10, To cash-paid for making 4 benches	1.75

We owe a tremendous debt of gratitude to Mrs. Golda McKeithan Brigman for the names of our charter members and the valuable information concerning our first house of worship.

CHURCH STAFF

1970-1978	Dr. Billy G. Rivers
1977-1978	Rev. John E. Freeman, Assistant Pastor & Minister of Education
1966-1978	Mrs. Martha P. Hayes, Adult Music Director and
1966-1978	Organist
1971-1978	Mrs. Lynda Davenport, Church Secretary
1974-1978	Mrs. Blanche Allen, Stewardship Secretary
1971-1976	Rev. James S. Ritter, Jr., Assistant Pastor and Youth Director

Rev. John Ernest Freeman
Assistant Pastor and Minister of Religious Education

The Rev. John Ernest Freeman was born July 23, 1952, at St. Mary's Hospital, Anderson, S. C., the son of Alvin and Florence Freeman of Anderson, S. C.

John has an older brother, David, who is at Southeastern Seminary, Wake Forest, N. C., and a sister, Susan, who is studying music at Berry College, Rome, Georgia.

John was graduated from T. L. Hanna High School in Anderson, S. C. in 1970. He then attended Anderson Junior College and was graduated with an A. A. degree in May, 1974. He next enrolled at Central Wesleyan College in Central, S. C., where he earned a B. A. Degree in Bible, December, 1975. Not satisfied with the degrees he had earned, he enrolled at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville, Ky., where he was graduated with a M.R.E. Degree in July, 1977.

John accepted the call to the ministry in May, 1974, and was ordained in January, 1976.

Eugenia Robinson Freeman was born in Liberty, S. C. She and John were married in 1971 and have two lovely young daughters, Michelle and Melissa.

John served as Assistant Youth Director at the New Prospect Baptist Church from 1974-1976. This church is his home church.

The Freeman family has been welcomed by the membership. In fact the congregation has taken them to its heart since their coming to Hamlet August 1.

Year 1973

Lay Evangelism School (WIN) was held at Pine Grove Baptist Church January 29-February 1, 1973. Hamlet First Church participated in the clinic and also in "Key 73," an effort by major religious bodies to share Christ with our fellow man.

The First Church W.M.U. was recognized as a distinguished W.M.U.

Week of Prayer for Home Missions was observed from March 4-11, 1973. The church goal was $1300.00.

"The Pioneers," a song group, were guests of the church on Sunday morning April 1.

The sum of $42,000.00 was reported in the Sanctuary Building Fund at Church conference on April 8.

Dr. Billy G. Cline of Merrimon Avenue Baptist Church, Asheville, N. C., led in Revival Services from April 8-13. The Revival was well attended and planned. Many commitments were made.

Community wide Good Friday services were held at St. Paul Lutheran Church April 20th at noon.

The Adult choir presented "The Resurrection Song," a lovely rendition, under the direction of Mrs. C. R. Hayes on Easter morning at the regular worship hour on April 20.

On May 6, 1973 nine people were baptized and welcomed into the full membership of the church.

The First Baptist Silent Group attended services at Camp Carraway on May 20.

At the May meeting of the Deacons the members recommended that the sanctuary, T. E. L. class room, Men's Bible class room, choir room and Omega House be painted inside and out. At the Church conference on May 13th, the congregation approved the recommendation of the Deacons.

At the same conference a motion was made and carried that James S. Ritter, Jr.be allowed to attend Southeastern Seminary classes on Monday, Wednesday, and Friday of each week.

On May 20th the Richmond Senior High School chorus delighted the congregation with their program.

The Youth Choir presented "LOVE", a Young World Musical, on May 27th at the evening worship hour. This was a most enjoyable program.

The name of "Benevolence Committee" was changed to "Social Concern Committee" in 1973.

June 3rd was Graduation Day, beginning with breakfast at 8 a.m. The morning worship hour was in honor of the graduating seniors.

Both men and women are members of Soft Ball teams. They play other teams of various denominations.

Vacation Bible School was held June 25-29.

The Senior citizens went to the Pastor's fish pond in Chesterfield, S. C. for a picnic, Tuesday, June 19th.

A successful Day Camp for boys and girls 4 and 5 years old was held July 9-13 each day from 9 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.

The Church participated in "Parson of the Hills". A generous collection of food, clothing, toys and bedding was collected in the month of August.

The history of the Silent Group written by Mrs. J. W. Jernigan was sent to Mr. Jerry Potter, Director of Deaf Minister, in Raleigh, N. C. It was also included in the local church history.

The motion was made and carried that Sparks Publishing Co. of Raleigh, N. C., print 500 copies of the church history *FROM A MUSTARD SEED* at $5.00 per copy.

The Budget Committee for 1974 was comprised of Mrs. Ann Dean, Robert Halyburton, Charles Alexander and Jerry Turner.

It was reported at the Deacons' meeting August 6th that the painting of the second floor of the education building was progressing nicely.

The newly elected Deacons on August 19th were Charles Alexander, Robert Beck, Jr., J. W. Jernigan, A. K. Maples and M. L. Preslar.

Standing committees are appointed by the Deacons. The following were to select these committee members — Olin Gardner, J. W. Jernigan and T. L. Nowell.

The nominating committee presented a list of General Church Officers for approval in Church Conference on August 12th. The church approved the list as presented.

"The Good Life Singers" from Lumberton, N. C. presented "The Good Life Sunday morning September 2nd.

At the September 2nd church conference the church voted that Sunday Night Church Activities begin at 6:00 p. m. and the evening worship service at 7:15 p.m.

A list of committees was brought to the church by the nominating committee for approval at the September 2nd conference. The motion was made, seconded and carried that the list be accepted.

A reception was given the Rev. and Mrs. Billy Rivers on September 18th, honoring their 25th wedding anniversary. The reception was held in the Fellowship Hall from 3 p.m to 5 p.m. The Church presented the Rivers with a beautiful silver service.

Sunday school promotion day was on September 30th.

Officers, workers, teachers and committees were all ready to begin a new associational year on October 1st.

"Bus Pay Off Day" was Sunday October 28, 1973. The goal was $2200.00.

The Belk Building was sold for $30,000.00.

At the Quarterly Conference in October, Mr. L. H. Williamson, a trustee, reported $47,100.00 in the Building Fund. The money was taken from this fund for the painting of the sanctuary, two Sunday School rooms, the Choir room and the Omega House. All bills had been paid. Payments to the Building Fund were resumed.

November 11th was pledge Day for 1974.

Church members participated in "Parson of the Hills" again this year.

The Hamlet Churches which worked in "Key 73" program, had a community service at 11:30 a.m. November 18th at Fairview Heights Auditorium.

The Community Thanksgiving service was held November 21st at 7 p.m. at Saint James Catholic church with the Rev. Clyde P. Haas, Jr., as the speaker.

John Manley "Hap" Jernigan was licensed for the ministry on November 25, 1973.

The Rev. H. Cloyes Starnes, missionary to Korea, taught the Foreign Mission Study "Passport To People" on November 27th at 7 p.m. at Mt. Olive Baptist Church in Rockingham.

The "Week of Prayer" for Foreign Missions was observed December 2-9. The Lottie Moon Offering goal of $2500.00 was reached.

December was the time of parties for Sunday school classes, the J.O.Y. club the Handbell groups and the choirs.

Dr. J. B. Willis, the beloved pastor for 37 years, died December 18, 1973. This was the day the church history *FROM A MUSTARD SEED* went on sale. Dr. Willis had looked forward to the completion of the book. It was regretted that he was not able to see a copy of it. He had been most helpful on supplying some of the contents.

The energy crisis was uppermost in the minds of the church members at this time. Plans for conserving energy were discussed and all were requested to cooperate with proposed plans.

The First Church W. M. U. organization was recognized as being "Distinguished" by the W. M. U. Achievement Guide .

Ten new members were baptized and welcomed into the fellowship of the church on Sunday evening January 13, 1974.

In the church conference on February 27, Dr. Pearce gave a report concerning the sanctuary. He reported that a new sanctuary would cost a million dollars.

From March 6-10 a youth-led revival was held. The speakers and musicians for the revival were from the First Baptist Church of Hamlet.

The "Week of Prayer" for Home Missions was observed from March 3-10. The Annie Armstrong Easter offering goal of $1250.00 was attained.

A letter of appreciation was sent to Dr. W. D. James and the staff of the Hamlet Hospital expressing gratitude for the love and concern shown Dr. J. B. Willis in the last months of his illness.

The Deacons also sent a letter of resolutions to the family of Dr. J. B. Willis recognizing his many years of service.

The Lord's Supper and the Ordinance of Baptism were observed Maundy Thursday, April 11th.

On Sunday April 14 a real spiritual inspiration was experienced when the Adult and Handbell Choirs presented "A Medley of Easter Hymns" directed by Mrs. C. R. Hayes and Mrs. T. E. Smart.

On Thursday May 16 the church honored all Senior Citizen members of the church with a special program and luncheon. Mr. Maurice Cooper was the guest speaker.

The Deacons at their May meeting, voted to paint the outside of the pastorium and to install storm windows and storm doors.

The Sunday Night Activities held their graduating exercises on Sunday night, May 19.

The Senior Adult Sunday night activities group had various pastors of many different denominations to speak to them during the period from September 1973 to May 1974.

A historical marker service was held on the church grounds adjacent to Hamlet Avenue on May 21, 1974.

High school and college graduates were honored at the Sunday morning worship hour on May 19.

The pastor, the Rev. Billy Rivers, was given a pounding of food for his birthday of May 19, on Sunday night.

Vacation Bible school for ages 4 to 12 years was held June 17-21.

The youth (12 to college) met on Wednesday nights at 7 p.m. beginning June 12.

The Library has been relocated. Mrs. Calvert Perry has made many improvements.

A rose memorial garden was begun in June 1974. It was designed, planted and is maintained by Mrs. J. F. Burns and Mrs. Anne Dean.

The Pee Dee Association sponsored Mrs. Martha Branham in a sacred concert at the church on July 18 at 7:30 p.m.

Deacons elected on August 18 were Joe Allen, Reece Anderson, Reggie Monroe, J. W. Wallace, and Ronnie Williamson.

The necessary reinforcement work on the Educational Building was to be completed by September 6, 1974.

Sunday Night Activities with a place for every one resumed September 8 at 6 p.m.

The church library was opened Sunday night September 29 after evening worship hour. Regular hours were to be observed later.

The activity bus was paid for during the summer of 1974.

Sunday School Promotion Day was September 29.

The nominating committee had been busy securing leaders and workers. A committee of Deacons had obtained a slate of members for all committees so all were ready to begin 1974-1975 year of work.

Year 1974-1975

On October 6,1974, the first Sunday of the Associational year, the Lord's Supper was observed at the morning worship hour.

On this same Sunday Ben Broadway, Jr. publicly surrendered his life to do whatever the Lord leads him to do. The church will license him sometime in the future.

The regular quarterly conference was held Sunday morning October 20. There were reports from all organizations of the church.

The Rev. Rivers announced that First Baptist Church of Hamlet was in the upper 10% of all N. C. Baptist churches giving to the cooperative programs.

Mrs. Agatha Joyner, a faithful and dedicated Christian, died September 25, 1974. Her will revealed that she had left $3,333.34 to the First Baptist Church of Hamlet and $1,666.66 to the N. C. Children's Home.

At the November Deacons' meeting the matter of new robes for the Adult Choir was discussed. A motion was made, seconded and carried that the robes be bought at a cost of $1,018.52.

There was a church conference on Wednesday evening, November 13, for the purpose of discussing the budget for 1975. After some discussion a motion was made that the budget as presented by the Budget Committee be voted on by the church, Sunday, November 17. The motion was seconded and approved.

A community Thanksgiving service was held at Fairview Heights auditorium at 11:30 a.m. on November 24. The guest speaker was the Rev. Austin Shell of Columbia, S. C. where he is Professor of Pastoral Care at the Lutheran Theological Southern Seminary.

The Foreign Mission Study was held at the Calvary Baptist Church on November 25 from 7-9 p.m. Mrs. R. L. Stokes taught this interesting study.

Another community Thanksgiving service was held on Wednesday night, November 27, at 7:30 p.m. at the First Baptist Church of Hamlet. The Rev. David McLean, Associate Pastor of the First Methodist Church of Hamlet brought the message.

A gift of $1,018.00 was given to the church. It was placed in the General Fund. The Deacons recommended that the money be used to pay for the Adult Choir robes. A motion to this effect was made, seconded and approved.

The Week of Prayer for Foreign Missions was held from December 2-6. The Church goal for the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering was $2600.00 which was oversubscribed.

Charles Ash, Jr. and H. C. Perry, were elected by the Church to serve as trustees replacing J. W. Wallace and H. C. Carroll. (Both deceased.)

It was a wonderful experience when all the Church choirs rendered their special Christmas music at both the morning and evening worship hours.

On January 2, 1975 the Lord's Supper was observed. On this same day at the quarterly conference reports from the various organizations were given.

D. C. Brown was elected to fill the unexpired term as a Deacon of J. W. Wallace.

The regular January Bible Study was taught by the pastor. It was a study of "The Book of Acts".

At the Adult Seminar the Rev. Forrest W. Pursley taught the "Book of Revelation" for several Sunday nights.

Because the owner defaulted the re-evaluation of the Belk building was begun.

Week of Prayer for Home Missions and the Annie Armstrong Easter Offering were the main emphasis from March 2-9. The associational Mission study was taught at the Hamlet First Baptist Church on March 3 at 7 p.m. by the Rev. Austin Lovin.

At the March Church Conference Mr. W. E. Brown reported that research had been made on a deed dated July 21, 1939 to the East Hamlet Baptist Church. On July 16, 1940 a deed was issued to the First Baptist Church and East Hamlet Baptist Churches. To clear the matter, the Board of Trustees was given the authority to secure a Quit-claim deed to be given to the Second Baptist Church. A motion was made to this effect. It was seconded and approved.

Many of the church young people attended a handbell clinic at St. Andrews College, Laurinburg, N. C., on February 22. They were accompanied by Mrs. Mary Snyder, Jim Ritter, Beth Queen and Mrs. Margaret Smart.

March 23 was designated as "Adult Day". The attendance was 306 for Sunday school. Mr. J. Wallace Jernigan had put forth much effort in trying to build up the Sunday school. It is regretted that the Seaboard Coast Line Railroad transferred him to another city.

The Preschool and Primary Choirs presented their music programs on Sunday night preceding Easter Sunday. Easter Sunday morning the programs presented by a Handbell Choir, the Adult choir and the Easter meditation were an inspirational experience on this the Day of our Risen Lord.

The Williamson Bible Class homecoming day was held Sunday April 6.

Sunday April 20 was observed throughout the Southern Baptist Convention as the 50th Anniversary of the Cooperative Program. The First Church is included in the upper 10% in giving to the cooperative program in N. C.

Mr. Allen P. Bailey, president of the N. C. Baptist State Convention spoke at the morning worship hour, Sunday, May 4.

Revival services began Sunday, May 11, "Mothers' Day", with Dr. Robert G. Witty, President of Luther Rice Seminary as our guest evangelist. The revival ran through May 14.

May 13 was Senior Citizens Day. After an interesting program the church provided a luncheon. Dr. Witty was the guest speaker.

The Sunday evening worship hour on May 25 was activities commencement. The Pre-school, Primary, Junior and Handbell Choirs gave a splendid program.

The Belk Building was deeded back to the church. This report was made at the June Deacons' meeting.

On June 22 the Silent Group from Loris, S. C. joined the First Church Silent Group for the morning worship hour. The Rev. Neal Peyton, N. C. Baptist State Convention missionary, was the speaker. Lunch was served to the Silent Groups after the worship hour.

Evening worship services began in the Fellowship Hall on July 20 at 7:15 p.m. and continued each Sunday evening through August.

At the July Church Conference the chairman of the nominating committee presented a slate of officers for the year 1975-1976. The motion was made, seconded and carried that the slate of officers be accepted.

Many of the youth went by church bus to attend "Youth Evangelism Night" at the Greensboro Coliseum on August 15.

Vacation Bible School was held August 11-15.

The chimes, a gift from Mr. and Mrs. T. G. Bagwell in 1944, were repaired. Mrs. Bagwell indicated she would be responsible for the upkeep of the chimes as long as she lived.

On August 17, Mr. W. E. Brown, Chairman of the Trustees, brought several recommendations to the church. Among them - - to provide an appropriate structure to house the church bus, to extend the parking area, to look into the possibility of buying additional property for more parking space and to install an elevator in the Educational Building. Most of those recommendations were accepted by the church.

On the same day Mr. Brown gave some figures concerning a new sanctuary. He reported that the church was saving about $2,052.95 per year. At that rate it would take 100 years to accumulate sufficient funds for a new sanctuary. He suggested a responsible committee be appointed to study renovation plans for the present sanctuary.

A conference was called Sunday morning August 31 to present the name of S. B. Bowers to replace J. W. Wallace on the Building Committee. The motion was made, seconded and carried.

On Sunday, September 14, Mr. Reese Anderson, Chairman of the Nominating Committee presented a list of officers, teachers and workers for 1975-1976. The church voted to accept the list as presented.

The same Sunday Bob Morris made a public profession to serve the Lord through the ministry. He planned to enroll at Gardner-Webb College as a ministerial student in the field of counseling.

September is State Missions month. The Church goal was $600.00 which was over subscribed to help 51 different ministries in N. C.

Year 1975-1976

Sunday, October 5, Ben Broadway, Jr. and Bob Morris were licensed to the gospel ministry.

During the worship hour on the same Sunday a dedicatory prayer service was held for all church workers including the Silent Ministry, Music Ministry, all officers and teachers of the Sunday school, Sunday night activities, W. M. U. Acteens, G. A.'s , R. A.'s , Mission Friends and committee members.

The Rev. Billy Rivers began his sixth year as First Baptist pastor on Sunday October 19.

There was a Church Conference October 19 with Mr. T. E. Smart, vice moderator in charge. Mr. W. E. Brown, presented a recommendation from the Trustees, to the effect that the church purchase two lots on the corner of Wilmington and Charlotte Streets for a parking lot at the cost of $7000.00. A motion was made, seconded and approved to accept the recommendation.

Mr. Brown made a motion that the church borrow the money for the lots with the loan to be paid when the Belk Building was sold. After a discussion of the matter, Mr. Smart called for a vote. The motion was carried.

At the close of the worship service on October 19, Mr. E. E. King presented the church a portrait of Rev. Billy G. Rivers on behalf of the D. R. Robinson family.

The budget for 1976 was presented to the congregation for consideration and approval on Sunday, October 23 at the morning worship hour. At the evening worship hour the Youth Choir presented "I Love America" in celebration of America's Bicentennial.

The Adult Seminar was fortunate to have the Rev. David Jay lead them on several Sunday nights on "Guidelines For Living."

Baptist Women's Day of Prayer was held November 11 at 3 p.m. in the sanctuary with Mrs. Johnny (Lou)Hill was speaker. She spoke to Acteens from the Association that evening in the Fellowship Hall.

Mrs. Juanita McGowan, Jr. taught the W.M.U. Manual to officers, leaders and members of the W. M. U. on November 5 at 11 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall.

The deed for the two lots on the corner of Wilmington and Charlotte Streets was closed on November 10.

On November 23 there was a Community Thanksgiving Service held at Fairview Heights Auditorium with Father Fred Gilbert as speaker.

Wednesday night November 26 there was a Community Thanksgiving Service at the Calvary Baptist Church with Dr. William Long delivering the message.

Dr. C. F. Clark, a missionary to Japan, brought the morning and evening message on November 30.

The "Week of Prayer" for Foreign Missions was observed from December 1-5. Dr. Clark taught the mission book "Sick and Ye Visited Me" on Monday night, December 1.

The Lottie Moon Christmas Offering goal was $2550.00 and was over subscribed.

The Choir, Sunday school classes and the J. O. Y. Club all enjoyed Christmas parties.

On Sunday, December 14 at 7:15 p.m. the Graded Choirs presented special Christmas music.

Sunday night December 21 the Adult Choir presented "A Service of Christmas Music," the lovely Christmas story which never grows old.

On January 4, the first Sunday of the calendar year 1976, Mr. Charles Ash, Jr. gave a report on the progress the church had made in 1975. Two items were of special interest.

1. The Belk building was sold December 10, 1975 to John and Kay Nash for $15,000.00.
2. The two lots on Wilmington and Charlotte Streets had been purchased for $7,000.00. $8,000.00 had been put into the Church Improvement fund.

The Trustees, Deacons, the House and Grounds Committee, the Planning and Building Committee, the pastor, the staff and members of the congregation were all working together in such a fine spirit to begin the Bicentennial year.

Ralph Harrell Day was February 8. Ralph spoke at the morning and evening services.

The W. M. U. sponsored a covered dish luncheon after the morning worship hour on Ralph Harrell Day. All church members were invited.

The pastor, Rev. Rivers, taught the "Book of Hosea" on Wednesday nights through February 18. This was the annual January study. On February 25 he taught the book "A Dynamic Church."

The Rev. Neal Peyton, an Associate of the Ministry to the Deaf of the Baptist State Convention, preached on February 29 at the 11 a.m. service.

Mr. L. H. Williamson called the church into conference Sunday morning February 29 at which time he recognized Dr. W. M. Pearce, chairman of the Building and Planning Committee. Dr. Pearce reported that the committee had fully evaluated all aspects of improving the sanctuary and recommended that the sum of $250,000.00 be set as a proposed working budget for the renovation of the sanctuary and other areas of the church facilities.

The committee also recommended that the Building Fund in the Savings and Loan be applied to the over all cost of $250,000.00 at the discretion of the Trustees. The recommendation was to be voted on Sunday, March 7.

On March 7 at the 11 a.m. service a conference was called. The following two items were brought to the church.

1. The Building and Planning Committee requested that Wayne Stogner be placed on the committee. A motion was made and approved.
2. Dr. Pearce, Chairman of the Building and Planning Committee, stated that on February 29 he had made a recommen-

dation of the proposed budget for the renovation of the church sanctuary. He then gave an outline of what was hoped to be done about the remodeling of the Sanctuary. After much discussion the recommendation was approved.

Our Home Mission study was held at Pine Grove Baptist Church, Rockingham, N. C., at 7 p.m. on March 8. The "Week of Prayer" for the Annie Armstrong Easter Offering was observed March 7-13. The theme was "A New Birth of Freedom." The First Baptists' goal was $1250.00

The First Baptist Church participated in the Pee Dee Association Bicentennial Revival effort in March and April. Dr. Hollis Green led in revival services from March 26-29.

At a Church Conference on March 21 the church voted to bid $5000.00 on the Millikin property adjoining the church parking lot area.

On Palm Sunday April 11 Mrs. Margaret Smart directed the Youth Choir in "Alleluia," a praise gathering for believers. It expressed various ways God can work through others to bless his people.

There was a Church Conference on April 11. All church organizations and several committees made reports for the past quarter.

At this same conference Rev. James S. Ritter, Jr., the Assistant Minister and Youth Director, presented his resignation effective May 30. He was leaving to become Associate Pastor of the First Baptist Church of Manning, S. C. It was with many regrets that his resignation was accepted as he had grown up in the First Baptist Church of Hamlet and the membership had learned to love him and his family.

The Ministerial Association sponsored a Community Sunrise Service at the Hamlet Junior High School stadium at 6:30 a.m. on Easter morning April 18.

In keeping with the Preschool Emphasis in 1976, a special Dedication Service to Preschoolers was held in Hamlet First Baptist Church on May 2 at the morning worship hour. The Preschool Department held open house from 4:00-5:30 p.m. for parents and all church members.

The theme "The Great American Birthday Party" was carried out in the four and five year departments with flags, liberty bells, drums holding potted plants, stars and a two tier birthday cake topped with flags.

Refreshments were served and everyone enjoyed the special celebration hosted by the teachers and children in these departments.

The church honored its Senior Citizens with a luncheon held May 3 in the Fellowship Hall.

On May 7, 1976 our pastor the Rev. Billy G. Rivers received his D. Min.- Doctor of Ministry degree from Luther Rice Seminary, Jacksonville, Florida.

"Mothers' Day" was May 9. The pastor brought an impressive message on mothers.

The services Sunday night, May 16 and Sunday morning, May 23 featured the church choirs' commencement. At these times splendid programs were presented by the choirs.

The Music Director and leaders of the various choirs are to be congratulated upon the fine performances during the year. They are blessed to have such dedicated groups with which to work.

The church honored Dr. and Mrs. Rivers, Mr. & Mrs. James Ritter, Jr., and family with a reception at 5 P.M. May 30 in the Fellowship Hall.

Vacation Bible School for children from nursery through the sixth grade was held from June 7-11. It was a very successful Vacation Bible School with an excellent staff of leaders and workers. The Commencement was June 13 at 7:15 p.m.

A W. M. U. study, "The Woman I Am" was taught by Mrs. Dorothy Bell at 7 p.m. on Monday June 7 at Hamlet First Baptist Church.

The Heck-Jones Offering goal of the W. M. U.'s of N. C. was $100, 000.00. This offering cleared the debt on Camp Mundo Vista near Asheboro, N. C.

At a Church Conference Sunday morning June 13, the church approved the Deacons' request that the new parking lot be paved.

The Church Choir presented its Bicentennial program "America-One Nation Under God" at the morning worship hour on July 4.

Following the morning worship hour on July 4, there was a church picnic on the church grounds.

On the night of July 4 a Community Bicentennial worship service was held at the new amphitheater on the Richmond Technical Institute Campus sponsored by the Richmond County Ministerial Association. Following the worship service an historical drama was performed. The admission was $1.00 each person.

A quarterly conference was held Sunday morning, July 11 during the worship hour. The Ordinance of the Lord's Supper was also observed.

The highlight of the conference on July 11 was the acceptance and approval by the congregation of a recommendation by the Chairman of the Building and Planning Committee that the Sanctuary be remodeled according to revised plans at a cost of $408,307.00. Other improvements and cost are listed in the following pages.

Reports of the past three months from organizations and committees were given as information at this quarterly conference.

The new parking lot was completed as of August 12, at the cost of $7,000.00.

The Executive Committee elected the following — Mrs. Joe Allen, D. C. Brown, Mrs. Martilla Halyburton, A. K. Maples, Ronnie Williamson with Reese Anderson as alternate to serve as a Search Committee to fill a vacancy on the church staff - - that of Minister of Education.

On August 22 the church elected the Sunday school, Sunday Night Activities and W. M. U. leaders and workers for the 1976-1977 year.

Homecoming and the Rev. Ben F. Broadway Day were celebrated on September 12. The Rev. Broadway was guest speaker and his family honored guests. During the morning worship hour the portrait of the Rev. Broadway was unveiled. Following the service there was a church picnic. The church is indebted to the Rev. Broadway for many accomplishments during his stay here from 1959-1970.

Sunday night Activities resumed their regular schedule September 12.

The Chimes for the new organ were given in memory of Mr. and Mrs. B. R. Carroll.

Church Committees for 1976-1977 had been elected and were ready to start a new year October 1st.

God has richly blessed America these past two hundred years. Prayers will continue to be made that He guide and bless this nation.

Year 1976-1977

The new year was entered into with great expectations. The church members knew that the sanctuary was to be remodeled and other improvements made. All looked forward to seeing the work started.

"The Voice" of October 3 carried a list of all church committee members and the names of all active deacons.

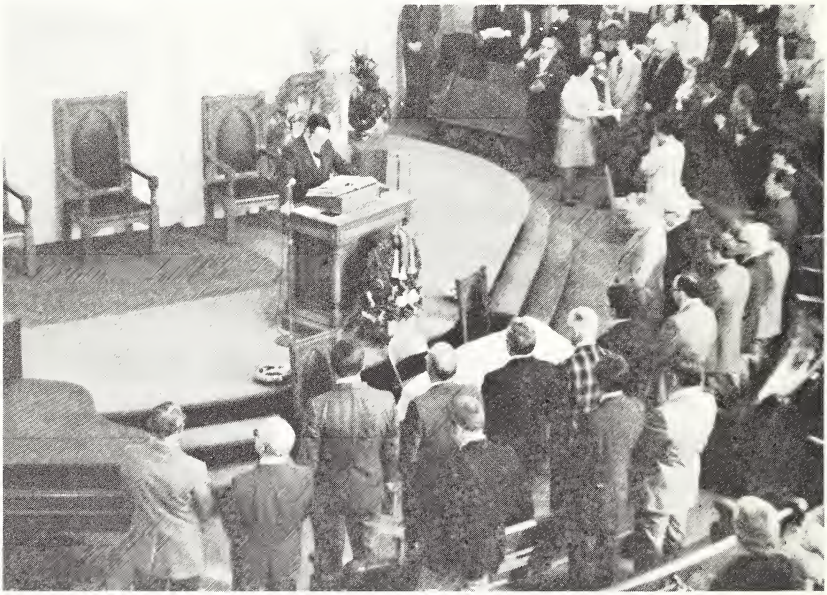
The first Church Conference of the new year was held during the worship hour on Sunday morning October 10. The Chairman of the Planning, Social Concern and Finance Committees gave their reports, Sunday School, Sunday Night Activities and W. M. U. reports were also given. The Chairman of the Trustees submitted a report. The last observance of the Lords Supper in the old building was October 10.

The W. M. U. had met all requirements to be an advanced W. M. U.

"The Voice" for October 24 gave a report of the Church's giving for 1976. The budget had been for $120,952.16. The receipts for the year for all causes amounted to $129,108.00.

The same issue of "The Voice" carried the names of the W. M. U. officers and leaders for 1976-1977,

Dr. Billy G. Rivers last sermon on the Lord's Supper in Old Building



Pastor, Deaf Ministers, and Congregation observing the Lord's Supper in Old Sanctuary.

Congregation observing Lord's Supper, October 10, 1977.

Observing Lord's Supper (left to right) L. H. Williamson, Chairman of Deacons, Dr. Billy G. Rivers, pastor, and A. K. Maples, Vice Chairman of Deacons.

The women of the church observed the "World Day of Prayer" on November 1. The gifts on this day help pay the expenses of women delegates from foreign countries who attend "The Baptist World Alliance." In communist countries these women are not allowed to take money out of their country.

November 14 was "Pledge Day" when financial commitments were made for the year 1977.

In a Church Conference on November 21, Mr. L. H. Williamson, Chairman of the Deacons, presented the budget for 1977. The motion was made, seconded and approved that the budget be accepted as presented.

The "Week of Prayer" for Foreign Missions began Sunday November 28, and continued through December 5. The topic for the week was "Good News of a Great Day." The Foreign Mission Study, "Stronger Than Mushrooms," was taught November 29th by Dr. Alan Neely, a missionary to Colombia, South America at Roberdel Baptist Church from 7-9 p.m.

The Lottie Moon Christmas Offering goal was $2600.00. The amount given was $3318.73.

A Community Thanksgiving Service was held at Highland Pines Free Will Baptist Church at 10 a.m. Thanksgiving Day, November 25.

Sunday School classes, the J.O.Y. Club, Choirs and Mission Groups enjoyed Pre-Christmas parties.

The Junior Choir presented a special Christmas program, "Hey, God, What is Christmas?" at the Sunday night worship hour on December 5.

On December 12 the Preschool and Primary choirs presented their programs on Sunday night during the worship hour to a large, appreciative audience.

On December 19 the church choir gave a heart warming rendition of "A Celebration of God's Gift" at the morning worship hour. That same night the Youth Choir gave a splendid program when they sang "Rejoice."

Sunday School and the morning worship service were held at the usual hours on January 2. The night services were suspended.

Prayer meeting was resumed on Wednesday night, January 5. The January Bible study, the "Book of Romans" was taught at Prayer meeting beginning January 12.

Bids for renovating the sanctuary and some other improvements were opened at 3 p.m. Wednesday, January 19 in the Fellowship Hall. As soon as the church accepts a bid, work is expected to begin in ten days.

The low bid was for $314,829.00 from Butler and Sidbury, Inc. and a high bid of $379,363.00 from the Donald C. Neal Construction Company. These bids were to be presented to the church for members' consideration on February 13.

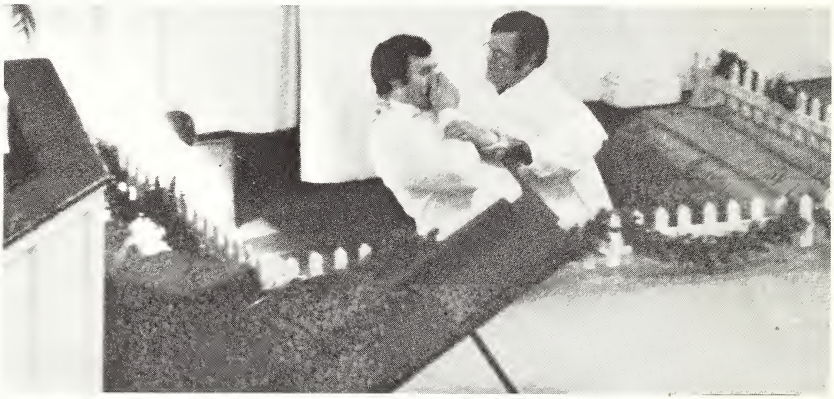
The renovation of the sanctuary and adjacent areas and the installation of an elevator in the Educational Building presented each member with a challenge.

At a Church Conference on February 13 Dr. Pearce was recognized. He recommended that the low bid of Butler and Sidbury, Inc. of Charlotte, N. C. and the organ contract of E. W. White be accepted at a total cost of $408,307.00. He also asked that the trustees be given the authority to secure the necessary financing to insure the complete renovation of the sanctuary. Dr. Pearce's recommendation was accepted by the church.

The last baptismal service in the old sanctuary was held February 20, at the evening worship hour. The pictures for this service did not turn out clear enough to be used but enclosed are pictures of one of the last baptismal services.

Listening to Baptismal sermon and waiting for baptism service.

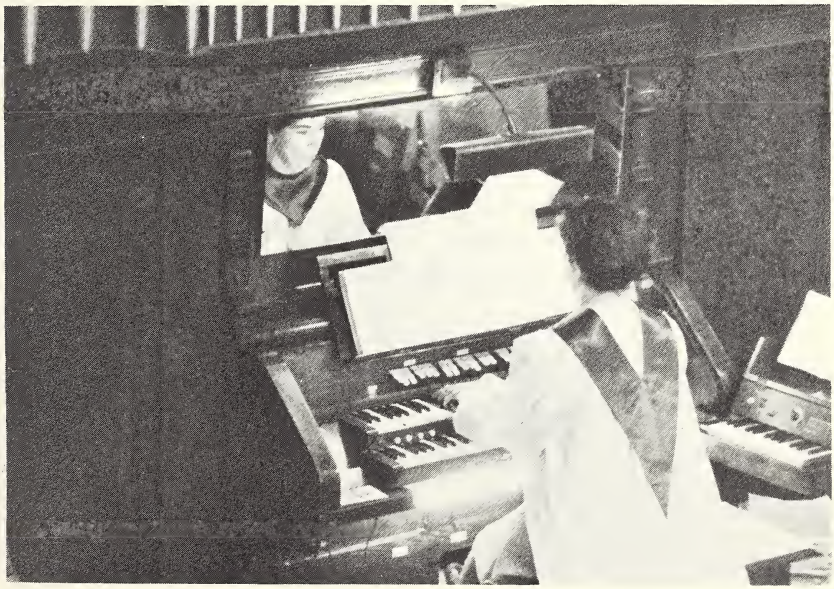
Edward Garrison, Jr. being baptized by pastor, Dr. Billy G. Rivers



Dr. Billy G. Rivers baptizing Charles Hall

Adult Choir, last service in old Sanctuary, February 20, 1977.

Part of the congregation for the last worship service in the old sanctuary.



Mrs. C. R. Hayes; Music Director and Organist in last service on February 20, 1977.

Regular worship services were held in the Fellowship Hall beginning February 27 and continued until the new sanctuary was completed.

The church was called into Conference on February 27, at the Sunday morning worship hour by L. H. Williamson, Chairman of the Deacons. He recognized Dr. Pearce who recommended that the Williamson Bible Classroom be made into a chapel using pews from the old sanctuary. The chapel would be used for small weddings, funerals and meetings of various kinds. This recommendation was accepted by the congregation.

The Home Mission study taught by the Rev. Austin Lovin was held at Pine Grove Church on March 7 from 7-9 p.m. The study book "A Sense of Spring" was about Baptist work in the Pacific Northwest, an area familiar to Rev. Lovin.

The Annie Armstrong Easter Offering goal for the church was set at $1200.00 which was exceeded by over $200.00.

The actual renovation of the sanctuary began in late February. "The Voice" of March 3 carried a note from the contractor requesting that all people stay out of the building so that workers would not be disturbed and to prevent injury to one's self or others. This request was honored and hundreds of the members did not see the sanctuary until it was completed.

On Palm Sunday April 3 the Primary and Church Choirs sang for the morning service. The Handbell Ringers also played for this service. The Youth Choir gave a musical-drama presentation "Living Witnesses" on Sunday night.

On Thursday, April 7 the Lords Supper was observed at 7:30 p.m. For many years it has been customary to have this ordinance on Maundy Thursday.

Easter Sunday morning April 10 a community Sunrise Service was held at 6:30 a.m. at Richmond Technical Institute amphitheater.

The Church Choir gave an inspiring rendition of "The Resurrection Song" at the Easter morning worship hour.

Dr. Pearce, head of the Music committee, stated that 119 were enrolled in our choirs. He also reported that the renovation of the santuary was ahead of schedule. This information was given with other organizational reports in a Church Conference on Sunday morning April 17.

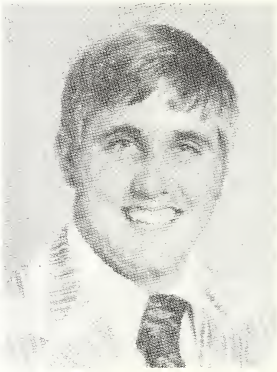
On Sunday evening May 1 the film "Corrie" was shown. Corrie Ten Boom shared memories of her life in Holland, her family and service to others.

Sunday, May 8 was "Mothers' Day". This was also Church Improvement Sunday. Church members had been requested to give an "over and above" offering for the Building Fund. $5,587.10 was given.

New choir room in new Sanctuary.

Entrance from Wilmington Street facing Hamlet Avenue

New entrance facing
Wilmington Street



Rev. John Manly "Hap" Jernigan
Ordained Sunday, May 15, 1977

John Manly "Hap" Jernigan was ordained to the ministry on Sunday morning May 15. He had been called as assistant pastor at Lee's Chapel Baptist Church at Middlesex, N. C.

The "Week of Prayer" for associational missions was May 16-22.

The month of May is commencement time for the graded choirs. All of them gave well presented programs.

June 5 was designated as "Graduate Day" for those being graduated from high school, college or other institutes of learning. During the worship service all graduates sat in a group wearing their caps and gowns. Immediately following the service all graduates were invited to a luncheon in Fellowship Hall.

The church was happy to have a young man of the church, Keith Gibson, to serve as a staff worker at Ridgecrest Baptist Assembly in the summers of 1976 and 1977.

On June 15 the Executive Committee was called into session to hear a report from the Search Committee on Mr. John Ernest Freeman from Anderson, S. C. to fill the vacancy on the staff as Minister of Education. The Executive Committee unanimously approved the report and recommended the report be presented to the church.

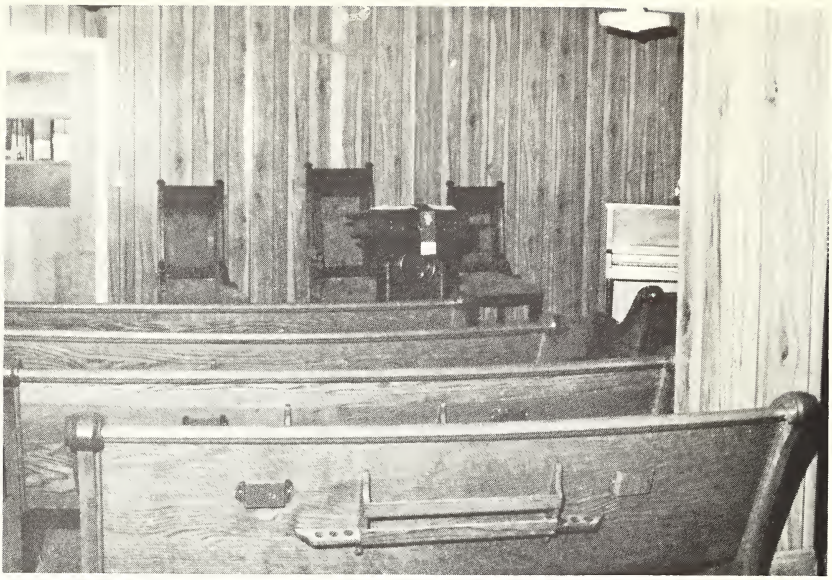
On June 17 the church was called into Conference. Mr. A. K. Maples, Chairman of the Search Committee was recognized and gave a report on Mr. Freeman, recommending that he be called as Minister of Education.

Other business at this conference was the giving of reports from committees and organizations. The W. M. U. officers and leaders of all age levels were nominated and elected by the church for 1977-1978.

At a church conference on Sunday, July 24, Mr. A. K. Maples, presented Mr. John Ernest Freeman to the congregation. Mr. Freeman shared a history of his life and how he felt he could be a help at the First Baptist Church.

After Mr. Freeman left the sanctuary, Mr. Maples made a motion that Mr. Freeman be called as Minister of Education. The motion was seconded and passed by unanimous vote of the congregation. Mr. Freeman accepted the call and became a staff member on August 1, 1977.

Soon after the church had voted to make a chapel out of the Williamson Class room, Mrs. Earline Byrd became interested in locating the pulpit furniture that had been used in The Second Church building and the sanctuary now being renovated until about 1943. She traced it through three churches which had used it. Finally she located it and found it was not being used at that time. After it was definitely established that it was originally the property of the First Baptist Church of Hamlet, she brought it back home. Some members helped to clean it and upholster the chairs. It is in good condition and is on the dais in the chapel.



Pulpit furniture purchased in 1905. Now in new chapel - details ot this beautiful addition to church is described in history.

On Sunday, August 14, ten men were nominated to hold the office of Deacon. Five of the ten were elected on August 21. They were Charles Ash, Jr., Ben Broadway, Jr., H. C. Perry, R. L. Snyder and Lowrey Walker, Jr. These five were to serve for four years. T. L. Nowell was elected to serve the two year vacancy of W. E. Brown.

There was a reception for the Freeman family at 8:15 p.m. in Fellowship Hall on August 14.

Volunteers were asked to help on Wednesday, August 17 when work began on the chapel.

In "The Voice" of 7-7-77, Dr. Rivers gave a progress report of the renovation work under way. He ended his article by saying the construction superintendent had said the program was a little ahead of schedule and should be finished by October 1.

Dr. Rivers was Vice-chairman of the State Missions Committee of the General Board. The goal for North Carolina was $1,385,000.00 which was the first major step in "Bold Missions."

At the evening worship hour on Sunday, August 21, the church was called into conference. Dr. Pearce of the Building and Planning Committee brought a recommendation from the Committee, which had been approved by the Deacons that we accept the bid of Lumberton Sheet Metal Co., Mr. Stuart Driscall, Manager, to replace the gutters

and down spouts, which were beyond repair with copper gutters and down spouts at a cost of $4,000.00. A motion was made to accept the recommendation. A discussion followed and Tommy Smart explained that this money for repairs would not come out of the budget but out of Special Offerings already given to the Church Building Fund. A vote was called for. The congregation approved the recommendation.

At the August meeting of the Deacons, a committee was appointed to assist the Pastor in making plans for the Dedication Service when the move is made back into the sanctuary. The following were selected — Mrs. E. L. Jones, Mrs. Jack Carroll, Mrs. L. H. Williamson, Dr. W. M. Pearce, Mr. Robert Ritter, Mr. Reese Anderson, Mr. Wayne Stogner, Mr. W. C. Boney, Jr., Mr. H. E. Hansen, Mr. T. E. Smart, Mr. Charles Alexander, Mr. V. S. Smith, Mr. S. B. Bowers, Mr. J. T. Strickland amd Mrs. C. R. Hayes.

At this same meeting the following persons were appointed to serve on the Budget Committee for 1977-1978 - - Mrs. Lucy McInnis, Mrs. H. O. Queen, Mr. Jim Gatch, Mr. Reggie Monroe, Mr. Ben Broadway, Jr., and Mr. Ronnie Williamson as Church Treasurer.

The 100th Anniversary Committee also appointed by the Board of Deacons to assist the Pastor were — Mrs. J. D. Nash, Mr. J. T. Strickland, Mrs. Blanche Dunn, Mrs. Martilla Halyburton, Mrs. Louise Howe, Mr. D. C. Brown, Mr. W. C. Boney, Jr., Dr. Willam M. Pearce, Mr. D. B. Greene, Dr. H. O. Queen and Mrs. C. R. Hayes.

At a Church Conference on September 11 the Nominating Committee presented a list of church officers, leaders and workers of various organizations for the 1977-1978 year. Charles Ash, Jr. made the motion that the list be accepted as presented, motion passed.

On Sunday, September 4, Mr. Clarence Collier of Laurinburg, a State Missions Interpreter, spoke for 15 minutes on "Bold Missions" in N. C.

Dr. Ernest C. Upchurch, State Director, City and Metropolitan Missions Department of the Baptist State Convention was the guest speaker on September 18. He was aware that the goal of $1,385,000 for State Missions was a challenge.

The Pee Dee Association goal for State Missions was $14,000.00. First Baptists' goal was $1400.00

A Church Conference was called on Wednesday night, September 21. Mr. J. T. Strickland gave a brief report on our Associational Letter for 1976-1977. Nine persons were nominated as messengers to the associational meeting. All nominees were elected. All mission goals had been exceeded. The church had contributed largest amount in recent history.

Sunday Night Activities resumed September 18 at 6 p.m. There are three adult groups now. Adult I is for younger adults led by Reggie Monroe. Adult II is for Middle adults led by Mrs. Barbara Hansen and Adult III for older adults led by John Freeman.

Sunday School Promotion Day was September 25 with an attendance of 285.

At the Sunday morning worship hour September 25 there was a Commissioning Service for teachers, leaders and workers of each church organization.

On Sunday night, September 25 there was an Ordination and installation service for the newly elected Deacons.

The following youth members were elected to serve on the Youth Council for 1978 - - Tommy Alexander, Gary Allen, Jr., Bryte Bowers, Dee Brown, Jeff Greene, Becky Hicks, Danny Hicks, Songa Loving, Bobby Pearce and Corinne Putnam.

The W. M. U. Leadership Training workshop was held at the Calvary Baptist Church from 7:30-9 p.m. on September 26 for W. M. U. officers and leaders.

On September 29 the W. M. U. Council and Baptist Women's Council had an annual planning meeting at 7 p.m. at the home of Mrs. Martilla Halyburton.

Members of the J. O. Y. Club left the church at 9 a.m. September 29 on the church bus for an outing at Mundo Vista. They returned after having lunch at the cafeteria.

Thus ended the church year of 1977 in the high hopes of worshiping in the new sanctuary before Christmas.

Year 1977-1978

The new associational year began with the good news that the goal of $1400.00 for the State Missions Offering had been exceeded.

The World Missions Conference with 22 churches in the Pee Dee Association participating, began Saturday night October 1 with a fair and rally at Pine Grove Baptist Church in Rockingham. Each of the 22 churches had five special mission services with five different missionaries leading. The services continued through Wednesday evening October 4.

The T.E.L.. Gray and Fidelis classes began a Sunday school assembly on October 2. Mr. D. C. Brown and the pastor are in charge each Sunday morning.

At the regular Deacons' meeting on October 3 the newly elected Deacons were welcomed by the Board.

Vester Smith and D. C. Brown were nominated as members of the Associational Executive Committee, and approved by members of

the Board of Deacons.

At this same meeting, a proposed project of beautification of the present parking area next to the Educational Building was brought from the Building and Grounds Committee. This was to be a paved circular driveway and parking area. The low bid for the work was $4700.00. A motion was made and passed that this project be brought to the church. Later figures showed the actual cost was $4,814.00. The congregation approved the project.

There was a Quarterly Conference on October 9 during the morning worship hour. A report was given by Mrs. Martilla Halyburton, Director of W. M. U. Sunday Night Activities report was given by Craig Collins, Asst. Director. Mr. Charles Hall gave the Sunday school report as follows - average attendance 230, highest attendance 277 on September 25, 1977, yearly average 232.

Dr. W. M. Pearce gave the Building and Planning Committee report. He stated that plans were for worship services to be held in the new sanctuary in December but no definite date had been set.

Mr. Tom Smart, Chairman of the Finance Committee gave the rereport. Average receipts per Sunday were $2400.00.

At a call meeting of the Deacons on October 16, the cleaning of the bricks of the sanctuary at a cost of $1380.00 was discussed. A motion was made and approved that the Deacons recommend to the church that the bricks be cleaned. The church approved the recommendation.

It was reported at this Deacons' meeting that work would begin November 7 on the paving of the circular drive and parking area. Dr. Pearce stated that a topographical map should be made of the Millikin property adjoining the bank property for the purpose of paving the church parking lot. A motion was made that this be done, seconded and passed.

The Pee Dee Associational meeting was held October 17-18. The first meeting was at Laurinburg First Baptist Church at 7 p.m. on the 17th. On the 18th a second meeting was held at Laurinburg First Baptist Church at 9 a.m. The 7:30 p.m. service was held at Pine Grove Baptist Church at Rockingham. The messengers from Hamlet First Baptist Church were Rev. and Mrs. John Freeman, Mrs. E. L. Jones, Dr. and Mrs. Billy Rivers, Mr. and Mrs. J. T. Strickland, Miss Ercie Stroup, Mrs. A. A. Williams and Mr. and Mrs. G. T. McGowan, Jr.

At the Deacons' meeting on October 16, Mr. J. T. Strickland made a motion that the messengers and representatives from the church, who were going to the Baptist State Convention, go by the church bus at the expense of the church. A motion was made, seconded and approved.

The Church youth enjoyed hamburgers and hot dogs before taking a Halloween hayride on October 29.

The Youth Study Group held its meetings on Wednesday nights from 7:15 p.m. to 8 p.m. This study was for grades 7-12.

November was designated as Stewardship month. All members were asked to make pledges for the coming calendar year 1978.

The Chapel was completed by November. The church is indebted to many who labored and gave of their time and talents. The Fidelis Class gave the carpet, Mr. and Mrs. H. E. Hansen the attractive panels, Dr. W. M. Pearce and family, the molding and materials for the platform and Dr. H. O. Queen the cross. The pulpit furniture was obtained through the efforts of Mr. and Mrs. Bill Byrd.

The Church was called into conference on November 6. Dr. Billy G. Rivers had been pastor of the church seven years on October 16. The Deacons voted to present Dr. Rivers a plaque signifying his leadership for the past seven years. The plaque was presented to Dr. Rivers. He accepted it with words of acceptance, love and delight.

An Age Group Workers' Conference was held November 13 from 4 to 6 p.m. Supper was served from 6:00-6:30 p.m. The second session was from 6:30-8:00 p.m. The conference was for all department directors, teachers, officers, and interested parents.

The Church bus carried several church members to the N. C. Baptist State Convention on November 15 at Charlotte where the commitment and commissioning of the new missionaries took place.

There was a G. A. (Girls in Action) Service on Sunday night November 20.

"M" night was held at East Rockingham Baptist Church on Tuesday, November 22 at 7:30 p.m.

The Community Thanksgiving Service was observed on November 23rd at 7:30 p.m. at the Fellowship Methodist Church.

The Choral Worship on Sunday, November 27 was presented by Mr. Elwood Coggins and Mrs. Helen Coggins Mathews.

The Week of Prayer for Foreign Missions was observed from December 4-10. There was a special program planned for each day.

The Associational Foreign Missions Study was taught by the Rev. Max Furr, a former missionary to Peru, at the Beverly Hills Baptist Church in Rockingham on December 5 from 7-9 p.m.

At the regular Deacons' meeting on December 5th a motion was made that the Sunday school and morning worship services be observed Christmas Day but all Sunday night activities be cancelled.

Dr. Pearce reported that the organ would be completed around January 15 to 20.

D. C. Brown reported that there were 28 shut-in members - one person has been assigned to each deacon to see if he or she would or could come to church on Sunday mornings.

A Church Conference was held on December 11 when Mr. T. E. Smart, Chairman of the Finance Committee, presented the budget for 1978. The budget had been discussed on Wednesday night the 14th. There was only one change made. The Centennial Committee, asked for $1,000.00 instead of the $600.00 budgeted. By consent of the congregation the budget would be voted on December 18, without any discussion, one week hence instead of two weeks as stated in the Constitution.

The Christmas music programs for December by the various choirs were:

Dec. 4	7:15 p.m.	Junior Choir
Dec. 11	7:15 p.m.	Church Choir
Dec. 18	11:00 a.m.	Pre-school and Primary Choir
Dec. 18	7:15 p.m.	Youth Choir

The Handbell choirs performed from time to time during Worship Services.

Sunday School classes, Mission Groups, Choirs and the J. O. Y. Club all enjoyed Christmas parties.

Worship was resumed in the new Sanctuary on December 11th, even though the organ was not completed.

The Christmas music of all the choirs except the Junior Choir was presented in the new sanctuary. The hearts of all those present were blessed by the music. Music and singing even in Bible times were a part of worship and still play an important place in worship services today.

The year 1977 closed with the congregation eagerly looking forward to the activities of 1978, including "Open House" on January 22 and the centennial celebration on September 24.

All graded choirs and Sunday Night Activities resumed their regular schedules on January 8, 1978.

The January Bible Study, the "Book of Exodus" was taught on Wednesday evenings by the pastor and John Freeman.

The regular church conference was held Sunday morning during the worship Service on January 15.

Mrs. Martilla Halyburton, Director of the W. M. U. made the following report; "Mission Friends" had an average attendance of 11 for the last quarter of 1977. The G. A.'s had a recognition service in November recognizing five girls for completing Adventure I. Eight younger G. A.s received their G. A. pins at this time. Acteens attended Foreign Mission Study and Rally. They went carolling to

shut-ins during the Christmas holidays. The younger acteens had an average attendance of eight, and the older acteens an average of four which represented 100%. Baptist Young Women had elected a president and are in the process of recruiting women between the ages of 18-29. Baptist Women participated in Baptist Women's Day of Prayer, the Foreign Mission study, "Rivers of Ink", and the "Week of Prayer."

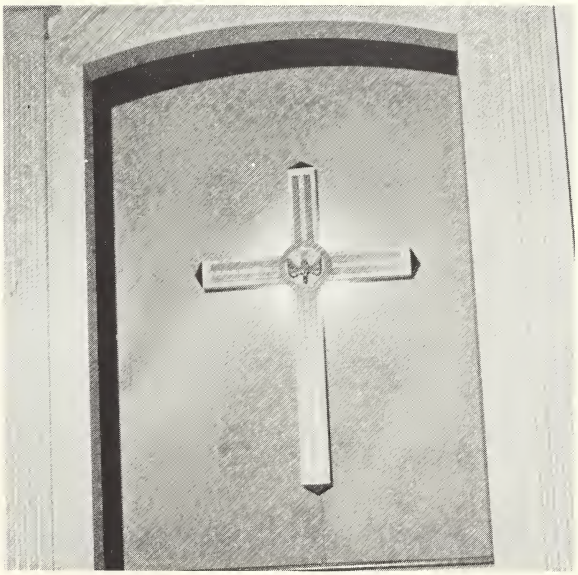
The goal for the Lottie Moon offering was $3,000.00 which was exceeded.

Mr. Charles Hall gave the Sunday school report. The average attendance for the past quarter was 238.

Mr. Harry Hansen reported an average attendance of 153 for the Sunday Night Activities.

Inside new Sanctuary

New Sanctuary



Cross in new Sanctuary

Dr. Pearce, Chairman of the Building and Planning Committee reported that most of the building program was completed except some adjustments to be made in the heating and air conditioning system. The organ was almost completed.

Charles Ash, Jr., Chairman of the Trustees, gave a full Building Fund report. The total amount approved for improvements was $418,501.00. The total net amount of loan needed was between $265,000 00 and $270,000.00. To repay this loan with interest at 8.75% per annum in 20 years would necessitate a payment of approximately $2,350.00 per month.

"The Voice" of January 12 had the following invitation on the front page: *"The members of Hamlet First Baptist Church invite you to join with us on a special day, January 22, 1978.* 11 a.m. dedication of the Sanctuary, 2:30-4:30 p.m. open house for Sanctuary and other facilities. 5:00-6:00 p.m. concert on the new organ in Sanctuary by Richard Apperson, professor of organ, Elon College.

Your sharing with us in these important events will be gratefully appreciated.

New Klaan organ

Sunday January 22nd was a significant day in the history of the Hamlet First Baptist Church. The Sanctuary was filled to capacity for the Dedication Service.

New parlor — showing furniture and pictures of pastors through 1921

Parlor with portraits of Rev. Benjamin F. Broadway, 1959-1970 and Dr. Billy G. Rivers, 1970 — present.

This quotation from II Chronicles 7:15-16 was most fitting for the Dedication Service. "Now mine eyes shall be open, and mine ears attend unto prayer, that is made in this place. For now have I chosen and sanctified this house, that my name may be there forever, and mine eyes and mine heart shall be there perpetually."

The Sanctuary was the focal point of interest with several outstanding features: The cross behind the baptistry, the lovely chandelier, the modern lighting and sound system, the beautiful carpet, the Pulpit Bible, the pulpit furniture, the grand piano, the Klaan organ with cathedral chimes and the Carillonic Bells which have been reworked.

From 2:30-4:30 p.m. the church held Open House for members and the public. Beautiful flowers were placed in all facilities. The visitors were taken in groups on tours by guides beginning in the Sanctuary, through the parlor, the Bride's room, the baptistry, music room, back and side entrances, the hallways, the Secretary's office, the new elevator, the chapel and into the Fellowship Hall where refreshments were served.

Parlor with portrait of Dr. James Bennett Willis

Brides Room

Brides Room

From 5:00-6:00 p.m. Mr. Richard Apperson, Professor of Organ, Elon College, gave a concert on the new Klaan Organ to a large audience.

The Building and Planning Committee with Dr. W. M. Pearce, as Chairman, the Trustees, Deacons, Building and Grounds Committee and congregation through planning and sacrificial giving of time, talents and money had brought the Sanctuary and other facilities to its present form.

There are many individuals who should be listed for their loyalty, love and concern of the church but space will allow only a few to be named. The late Mr. W. E. Brown, Trustee and Deacon, inspired the church with a vision of what could be done in a building program for the present membership and those who join our fellowship in the future.

Mr.Julian Davenport urged and motivated the church to install an elevator in the Educational Building.

Mr. J. T. Strickland checked the building procedures regularly in order to keep the Building and Planning Committee informed of any needed suggestions or decisions.

Several of the Deacons joined in an extensive visitation program to the sick and home-bound members.

Dr. and Mrs. Rivers were invited to the Presidential Prayer Breakfast on February 2, in Washington, D. C., which they attended. They have had the honor of attending Presidential Prayer Breakfasts several times previously.

W. M. U. Focus week was observed February 12-18 by all of its organizations: Mission Friends for boys and girls ages three through five; Girls in Action for girls in grades one through six; Acteens for Girls in grades seven through twelve. The Royal Ambassadors were recognized by the pastor during a worship service.

On Wednesday, March 1st, the church bus carried the Silent Group and their leaders to see "The Three Musketeers" at the National Theatre of the Deaf located at Caldwell Community College, Lenoir, N. C.

The Ordinance of Baptism was observed March 5th. This was the first Baptismal Service in the new Sanctuary. Mrs. Paula Lott Choplin was the first of seventeen to be baptized.

The Rev. Austin Lovin, Director of Missions of Pee Dee Baptist Association, taught the Home Mission Study, "The Leaven and The Salt," on March 6th at 7:00 p.m. at Pine Grove Baptist Church, Rockingham, N. C. Our church was well represented.

On March 6th at the regular Deacons' meeting, Charles Ash, Jr., Chairman of the Trustees, stated he had some insurance agents to

check over the church and give him an updated insurance coverage proposal on the new Sanctuary. It was agreed that the coverage should be increased.

At the same meeting, Dr. Pearce stated that a microphone was needed for communion and other occasions. D. B. Greene agreed and stated he would pay for it.

It was brought to the attention of the Deacons, that the R. T. I. School of Nursing wanted to hold their exercises at the church on Friday, September 1st. The request was granted.

The Week of Prayer for Home Missions was observed March 6-10 with a special program each day.

There was a Youth Fellowship for 7th graders and older on Sunday night, March 12 after the evening worship hour at the home of Mr. and Mrs. John Freeman.

Several W.M. U. members attended the State W.M.U. Convention at Fayetteville, N. C. on March 15.

Mrs. Norva Jernigan taught the Home Mission Study "Hands That Say Hello," to the G.A.'s and R. A.'s (grades 1-6) on Wednesday night March 15th. The study was preceded by a spaghetti supper at 6:00 p.m.

The Hamlet Ministerial Association sponsored Noon Holy Week Services at the First United Methodist Church from March 20-24 with a different speaker each day.

The Ordinance of the Lord's Supper was observed March 23, Maundy Thursday, at 7:30 p.m. at First Baptist Church.

The Sanctuary was beautifully decorated with lovely Easter lilies given in honor or in memory of loved ones on Easter Sunday.

On March 27 several of our youth went to the Eastland Mall, Charlotte ice skating rink. They traveled by church bus leaving at 1 p.m. and returning around 11 p.m.

The Youth Department enjoyed a hayride on March 31. Rev. and Mrs. John Freeman enjoyed fun, fellowship and inspiration with this group.

Rev. John "Hap" Jernigan was the guest speaker for the Youth Revival April 7-9. He was licensed to preach in 1973 and ordained in 1977 by the Hamlet First Baptist Church. He is now pastor of Hoffman and Marston Baptist Churches.

Mrs. Lois Pearce presented the Community Choral Group in a special musical "Celebrate Life" on April 2 at 7:15 p.m. It was definitely something special and has been given in other churches.

The Annual Associational W.M. U. meeting was held at Hamlet First Baptist Church on Tuesday, April 11 at 7:30 p.m. Dr. Marian Hume was the guest speaker. Included in the program was a parade

of flags with G.A.'s and R. A.'s participating. Mrs. Lois Pearce was organist. Special music was furnished by Jeff Greene, Tim Rivers, Bobby and Jimmy Pearce during the fellowship period.

There was a quarterly church conference Sunday morning April 16th during the worship hour. Reports were heard from the organizations and the committees.

On Sunday, April 23 at 5:00 p.m. there was an important meeting for Sunday school officers, teachers and workers. There were discussions of areas of needs, several coming events and plans for next year.

Vacation Bible School workers had a meeting April 30 at 5 p.m.

Beginning April 30 there was a childrens' sermon as part of the morning worship hour. There are to be two such services each month.

On May 2 the Senior Citizens of the church were invited to join with the J.O.Y. Club members for lunch. May is Senior Citizens' month and the church annually honors its Senior Citizens with a luncheon. Dr. Rivers was the guest speaker for the occasion.

The Sunday Night Activities Adult I Group had a family picnic at Ellerbe Lions' Club Park on May 6.

On Sunday, May 7, the church observed Gardner-Webb College Ministerial Day with Worth Carson, a student at Gardner-Webb as guest speaker.

On May 13 all G.A.'s were invited to go to Charlotte Eastland Mall for ice skating.

Several men and women of the church are participating in the Church League softball games.

The week of May 11 James S. Ritter, Jr. received his Doctor of Ministry Degree from Luther Rice Seminary, Jacksonville, Fla. The church extended congratulations to Dr. James S. Ritter, Jr. for this accomplishment.

On Wednesday, May 17, there was a picnic honoring our Pastor on his birthday which is May 19.

Sunday, May 21, at 6:00 p.m. the new Billy Graham Film "Shiokari Pass" was shown in the Fellowship Hall. It was announced on this Sunday that the church was happy to have two young people serve as staff workers for the summer: Miss Bryte Bowers and Mr. Boyd Bowers at Southport Baptist Assembly.

The special music on Sunday night, May 21, was given by the youth choir when they presented "Love and Kindness" at 7:15 p.m. This was an excellent program.

As of June 1, Mrs. C. R. Hayes has served as organist, Sanctuary Choir Director and Co-ordinator of Music Activities for 12 years.

The church expressed appreciation for her loyalty and devotion.

On Sunday, June 4, was Graduate Recognition Day. Those being graduated from First Baptist were twenty in number from high school, college and other institutions of learning. They sat in a special section in the church wearing their caps and gowns. After the morning service they were taken to Revel's Restaurant for lunch. Each graduate was also given a book.

Mrs. Harry Shaw and Mrs. O. D. Davis have given a funeral pall to the church in memory of Harry M. Shaw. This pall may be used by any church member for a funeral.

The W.M.U. Annual Meeting of the Southern Baptist Convention met June 11 and 12 in Atlanta, Ga.

The Southern Baptist Convention met in Atlanta June 13 and 15. Dr. and Mrs. Billy Rivers were the messengers from the church. Vacation Bible School was held June 19-23. The Commencement Program was given at the evening worship hour on June 25.

The Nominating Committee began work in June to fill the roster of officers, leaders and workers for the organizations of the church.

A Bold Mission Rally was held on June 24 at 7:00 p.m. for the pastors, Associate Pastors, Music Directors, Deacons, Treasurers, Sunday School Directors, Church Training Directors, Brotherhood and W.M.U. Directors, and all officers and leaders in each organization. This Rally was well attended by members of First Baptist and others throughout the Pee Dee Baptist Association.

The Rev. and Mrs. John Freeman and Mrs. Juanita McGowan partipated in the "Christian Builders" Bold Mission thrust in Indiana, July 7-15.

During the summer our young people will be enjoying softball and camp life at Mundo Vista, Caswell, Caraway, Ridgecrest, and Camp Pee Dee.

The month ot July emphasis is Christian Citizenship beginning July 2.

In August the emphasis will be Baptist Men and Associational Missions. Each church member needs to be enlightened about Associational Missions and what part the First Baptist Church plays in the organization. At the present, our Pastor's wife, Mrs. Joyce Rivers is serving as Secretary to the Director of Missions of the Pee Dee Baptist Association. Mr. Austin Lovin, the Director of Missions has been at home recuperating from heart attack, which he suffered on May 12th. Mrs. Rivers, along with the Moderator, Rev. Wayne Tuttle, and the Chairman of Missions Committee, Rev. Jerry Townsend have assumed the work of the Director of Missions during this period. We are so grateful our church can be represented in this way.

September emphasis will be the 100th Anniversary of Hamlet First Baptist Church, Church Music and State Missions.

The graded choirs and Sunday night activities will resume regular schedules on September 17 which is also State Missions Day and Offering.

Hamlet First Baptist Church will celebrate its 100th Anniversary on September 24. It will be home coming for many. Invitations have been given to descendants of former pastors and other special guests. A large crowd is expected to hear Dr. Marse Grant, Editor and Business Manager of the *BIBLICAL RECORDER*, and Dr. James S. Ritter, Jr., former Assistant Pastor and Youth Director of the church, at the morning worship hour followed by a church picnic. In the afternoon Rev. Ben Broadway, the only living former pastor, and Rev. Stan Cabell, a former Assistant Pastor and Minister of Education, and other former staff members will have part in the celebration.

There will not be a complete listing of gifts as many members have already given numerous valuable things in furnishing the Sanctuary, parlor, bride's room and chapel. Many have also made cash contributions toward the landscaping of the grounds and to the Building Fund. The church deeply appreciates these gifts and they are listed in a "Book of Memorials."

The congregation owes a debt of gratitude to the following members of the Building and Grounds Committee: Mrs. J. F. Burns, Chairman, Mr. and Mrs. W. B. Byrd, Charles Utter, Luke Preslar, Charles Honeycutt, John Maul, Ernest Dunn, Gordon Monroe, Mrs. Herndon Thompson, W. C. Sapp, and Vester Smith, who have labored so long and faithfully to beautify our grounds. We deeply appreciate the assistance of Samuel Rivers who helped with the landscape designing and planting of the shrubbery. We also appreciate Mr. J. F. Burns, husband of Mrs. Burns, chairman of the Building and Grounds Committee, and Mr. L. D. (Doug) Cook, who are retired and have labored faithfully with the committee in beautifying our grounds. Ronnie Williamson, D. B. (Sonny) Greene and Mr. and Mrs. R. L. Watson have assisted the committee on many projects. Dr. W. M. Pearce and other members of the Planning and Building Committee continue to give their time and service to the ongoing projects of the church.

The first funeral before the dedication of the Sanctuary was that of Mr. Olin Gardner, a beloved deacon on January 8, 1978. The first funeral after the dedication was that of Miss Thelma Bullock. She participated in "Open House" on January 22. Her funeral was held on January 24 at 2:00 p.m.

First wedding in the new Sanctuary was that of Miss Jo Lynn Allen to Mr. Toby Ingram on May 6, 1978 conducted by the Rev. John Freeman, Assistant Pastor, First Baptist Church, Hamlet, N. C.

The first wedding in the lovely Sanctuary was that of Miss Jo Lynn Allen to Mr. Toby Ingram on May 6, 1978 conducted by the Rev. John Freeman.

The first wedding conducted by Dr. Billy Rivers was that of Mrs. Myrtle Wright and Mr. John Chalk on June 8, 1978.

On June 30 a rehearsal was held for the July 1 wedding of Miss Mata Greene and Mr. Ray Shankle conducted by Dr. Billy Rivers and Father Fred Gilbert of St. James Catholic Church.

ORGANIZATIONS OF THE CHURCH SINCE 1972

Sunday School Directors

1973-1974 J. Wallace Jernigan
1975-1977 D. C. Brown
1978 Charles Hall

Nursery Extended Sessions Director

1973-1978 Miss Louise Woodall

Sunday Night Activities Directors

1973-1975 Dr. W. M. Pearce
1976-1977 A. K. Maples
1978 Mrs. H. E. Hansen, and Craig Collins, Assistant

The Sunday Night Activities have three adult groups

Group I - Reggie, Monroe, leader
Group II - Mrs. H. E. Hansen, leader
Group III - Rev. John Freeman, leader

Mrs. C. R Hayes is Program Coordinator for music activities.

1978 The Youth Choir, grades 8-12 is led by Mrs. Margaret Smart and Mrs. Mary Snyder.
Children's Choir, grades 4-7 is led by Mrs. Lois Pearce and Mrs. C. R. Hayes.
Children's Choir, grades 1-3 is led by Mrs. Levon Wilson, Mrs. W. B. Byrd, and Mrs. Sandra Ballard.
Preschool Choir, 4 and 5 year olds, is led by Mrs. H. L. White, Mrs. Reggie Monroe, and Mrs. Gertrude Mackey.
Mrs. Margaret Smart is Director of the Handbell Choirs.

It is regrettable that all the women who have given freely of their time and talent in training our young people and children cannot be listed but space is limited.

W.M.U.

1973-1975 Mrs. Charles Alexander - Director
1973-1975 Mrs. J. N. Gatch - Baptist Women's President
1973-1975 Mrs. Reggie Monroe, Mrs. David Brown - BYW leaders
1975-1978 Mrs. Martilla Halyburton - Director
1975-1978 Mrs. Earline Byrd - Baptist Women's President
1975-1976 Mrs. Wayne Burns - BYW leader
1976-1977 Mrs. Sue Harrelson - BYW leader
1973-1978 Mrs. Ruth Howe - Secretary
1976-1978 Mrs. E. L. Jones - Mission Action Director

MISSION-FRIENDS

1973-1975	Mrs. Howard Brigman
1975-1976	Mrs. Reggie Monroe and Mrs. Howard Brigman
1977-1978	Mrs. Reggie Monroe, Mrs. P. R. Eubanks and Mrs. Robert McCrary, Jr.

YOUNGER G.A.'s

1973-1974	Mrs. Harold High
1974-1975	not listed
1975-1976	Miss Jennifer Halyburton
1976-1978	Mrs. Lowry Walker and Mrs. Jerry Turner

OLDER G.A.'s

1973-1974	Mrs. Ronnie Williamson, Mrs. Betty Gardner, Mrs. John Loving
1974-1975	Mrs. Ronnie Evans, Mrs. Betty Gardner
1975-1976	Mrs. Charles Alexander
1976-1977	Mrs. Wayne Burns and Mrs. Charles Alexander
1977-1978	Mrs. Wayne Burns and Mrs. Charles Hall

ACTEEN'S - Grades 7-9

1973-1974	Mrs. H. C. Perry
1974-1976	Mrs. J. U. Martin
1976-1977	Mrs. J. U. Martin, Mrs. Betty Gardner
1978	Mrs. H. C. Perry and Mrs. Nell Woodall

ACTEEN'S - Grades 10-12

1973-1974	Mrs. B. P. Boney and Mrs. C. W. Sutton
1974-1975	Mrs. B. P. Boney and Mrs. Mack Harris
1976-1977	Mrs. B. P. Boney and Mrs. Mack Harris
1977-1978	Mrs. Martha Bowers and Mrs. Brenda Puttnam

R.A.'s

1972-1973	Mr. Tom Smart and Mr. David Brown
1973-1974	no R. A. program
1974-1975	Rev. Jim Ritter
1976-1977	Tommy Stone, Lowry Walker, Ben Broadway, Jr., Reggie Monroe, Mrs. Billy Rivers
1977-1978	Tommy Stone, Lowry Walker, John Freeman, Mrs. Ronnie Evans and Mrs. Billy Rivers.

SILENT MINISTRY DIRECTORS

1973-1978	Mrs. Cecil Woodall, Mrs. J. W. Jernigan, and Mrs. Luke Preslar

SUNDAY SCHOOL GENERAL SECRETARIES

1973-1974	Mrs. R. L. Snyder, Assistant
1973-1978	Ronnie Williamson
1975-1978	Mrs. R. Snyder, Assistant
1978	Corinne Putnam and Jeff Greene, Youth Assistants

LITERATURE SECRETARY

1973-1978	J. T. Strickland

CHURCH TREASURERS

1973	C. W. Barnes
1974	L. H. Williamson
1975-1978	Ronnie Williamson
1978	T. L. Nowell, Assistant

CHURCH CLERKS

1973-1975	Mrs. George Cockman, Jr.
1976-1978	Mrs. Craig Collins
1977-1978	Mrs. Johnny Ormsby, Assistant

DIRECTOR OF LIBRARY SERVICES

1973-1974	R. L. Snyder
1974-1978	Mrs. H. C. Perry

MINISTERS ORDAINED OR LICENSED

1973	James S. Ritter, Jr. - Ordained
1974	John M. "Hap" Jernigan, Joey Jernigan-- Licensed
1976	Ben Broadway, Jr. and Bob Morris - Licensed
1977	John Manley "Hap" Jernigan - Ordained

CHAIRMEN OF DEACONS

1973	T. E. Smart
1974-1978	L. H. Williamson

LIFETIME DEACONS

1978	Dr. W. M. Pearce
1978	L. H. Williamson
1978	W. C. Boney, Jr.

DEACONS ELECTED SINCE 1972

R. L. Snyder, Olin Gardner, D. B. Greene, Ben Broadway, Jr., J. Wallace Jernigan, Robert Beck, Jr., Reece Anderson, Reggie Monroe, Ronnie Williamson, Robert Ritter, Tommy Stone, Lowry Walker, Charles Ash,Jr.

CHAIRMEN OF TRUSTEES

1973-1975	W. E. Brown
1976-1978	Charles Ash, Jr.

GENERAL BOARD OF N. C. BAPTIST STATE CONVENTION

1969-1973	Rev. Billy Rivers - Church Program Committee
1977	Dr. Billy Rivers - Missions Committee
1977	Dr. Billy Rivers - Resolution Committee
1978	Dr. Billy Rivers - Restruction of N. C. Missions Ministries.
1978	Dr. Billy Rivers - Committee on Committees

COMMUNITY SERVICES BY DR. BILLY G. RIVERS

1973	Crusade Chairman of Cancer Society
1976-1978	President of American Cancer Society - Richmond County Unit
1970-1978	Member of Committee for Carolina Holiday Festival
1974	Chairman Carolinas Holiday Festival
1976-1978	Executive Director - Carolinas Holiday Festival

GENERAL OFFICERS AND MEMBERS OF COMMITTEES OF PEE DEE ASSOCIATION

1972-1978	Secretary to Director of Missions - Mrs. Billy G. Rivers
1972-1973	Vice-Moderator - James S. Ritter, Jr.
1973	Moderator - James S. Ritter, Jr.
1973-1978	Historian - L. H. Williamson

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

1973-1976	Rev. Billy G. Rivers, Olin Gardner, L. H. Williamson
1977-1978	Dr. Billy G. Rivers, Vester Smith, D. C. Brown

OFFICERS OF THE SUNDAY SCHOOL

1973	Children Department - Mrs. W. E. Graham

OFFICERS OF CHURCH MUSIC

1974	Mrs. T. E. Smart - Chairman

OFFICERS OF WMU

1973-1975	Mrs. Robert Halyburton - Treasurer
1974-1975	Mrs. A. A. Williams - Director
1976-1978	Mrs. George McGowan, Jr. - Baptist Women Director
1978	Mrs. George McGowan, Jr. - Director

STANDING COMMITTEE

1973	Mrs. E. L. Jones - Christian Life Committee

COMMITTEE ON COMMITTEES

1973	Mrs. Joyce Rivers
1974	Mrs. Juanita McGowan, Jr.
1976-1978	Dr. Billy G. Rivers

CONSTITUTION COMMITTEE

1973-1974	Mrs. Billy G. Rivers

FINANCE COMMITTEE

1973-1975	Charles Alexander, Chairman

MISSIONS COMMITTEE

1973	Mrs. Fletcher Honeycutt
1974-1978	Mrs. Juanita McGowan,

PETITIONARY LETTERS COMMITTEE

1973-1975	Mrs. Harvey Carroll

RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE

1973-1975	Reece Anderson

ORDER OF BUSINESS COMMITTEE

1974-1975	Mrs. J. D. Nash
1976	T. E. Smart

SEMINARY EXTENSION COMMITTEE

1974-1975	James S. Ritter, Jr.

HOME FOR THE AGING REPRESENTATIVE

1975	W. E. Brown

N. C. BAPTIST FOUNDATION REPRESENTATIVE

1975-	Mrs. Lucy McInnis
1977-1978	Mrs. A. A. Williams

ORDINATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE

1977-1978	Dr. Billy Rivers

STATE MISSIONS INTERPRETERS

1977-1978	Mrs. Juanita McGowan, Mrs. A. A. Williams

EVANGELISM COMMITTEE

1974-1976	Rev. Billy Rivers, Chairman

OUR CENTENNIAL YEAR 1978

Hamlet First Baptist Church
On Charlotte Street she stands
Welcoming one and all
With outstretched arms and hands.

Our beginning it was small
These last one hundred years
The numbers we cannot recall.

Buildings three we have had
As in numbers we grew
We owe our thanks and praise
To Him who honor is due.

Everything so lovely
Now in our Sanctuary
Day of Dedication
Was viewed in January.

We all lift our voices
Now in gratification
To Jesus Christ our Lord
For His gift of salvation.

This your house of worship
Dear Lord now sanctify
That your name forever
Here may we glorify.

By: Mrs. Bessie H. Nash

RESIDENT MEMBERS

Adams, Dr. Roy G.

Alexander, Mr. and Mrs. Charles R. (Carolyn)
Terry, Tommy

Allen, Mr. and Mrs. Gary E. J(Jeanette)
Judy, Gary, Jr.

Allen, Mr. and Mrs. J. A. (Blanche)

Allen, Mr. and Mrs. J. C. (Ora)

Allen, Mrs. Letha
Deborah

Allen, Mr. and Mrs. M. C. (Lilly)

Allen, Robert E.
Jo Lynn

Alston, Mrs. J. L., Sr.
J. L., Jr.

Anderson, Mr. and Mrs. Reese (Jean)
Ken, Susan

Andrews, Mr. and Mrs. R. H.

Ash, Charles, Jr.
Rebecca, Lynn, Tweetie

Ash, Mrs. Charles, Sr.

B

Bailey, Mrs. W. P.

Baker, Mrs. Kenneth (Cindy)

Ballard, Mr. and Mrs. Lowery (Sandra)
Gary

Bankhead, Mrs. Ruby (J. L.)

Bankhead, Mrs. W. W.

Barnes, Mrs. Sue
Lynn Langley

Barrington, Mrs. F. M. (Grace)

Barwick, Joseph

Bass, Mr. and Mrs. Charles (Sherry)

Beck, Mr. and Mrs. Robert F. (Ann)
Cathy, Robert

Beck, Mrs. U. L. (Clara)

Bell, Mrs. Sarah

Benbury, Mrs. R. W. (Eula)

Benoy, Mrs. H. L.

Berry, Mrs. Robert (Betty)
Deborah

Berryman, Mrs. Jane

Billingsley, Mrs. M. C. (Edna)

Billingsley, Mrs. Lucy
Tammy

Billingsley, Alan

Bittle, Mr. and Mrs. Donnie (Brenda)

Black, Butler
Ada

Bolch, Mrs. Charles S. (Lib)

Boney, Mr. and Mrs. Ben P. (Susan)
Christie

Boney, John

Boney, Mr. and Mrs. William C., Jr. (Ethel)

Boulier, Mrs. Jack (Frances)

Bowers, Mr. and Mrs. S. B. (Martha)
Boyd, Bryte, Parker

Boyd, Mrs. R. C., Sr., (Pauline)

Brigman, Mrs. Howard (Geraldine)

Brigman, Mr. and Mrs. J. Dan (Frances)

Brigman, Mrs. J. F. (Essie)

Britt, Mrs. Anderson

Broadway, Mr. and Mrs. Ben F., Jr. (Annette)

Brooks, Mrs. L. D. (Thelma)

Brown, Mrs. Albert (Evelyn)

Brown, Mr. and Mrs. D. C. (Rosalie)

Brown, Mr. and Mrs. David (Rosemary)
David, Jr., Robert Lee

Brown, Mrs. Harold F. (Marie)

Brown, Mrs. John Z. (Mary)

Bruce, Mrs. Otis (Marion)

Bryant, Mrs. L. K.
Linda

Bryant, Mrs. Lindsey

Bullock, Harold A.

Burns, Mr. and Mrs. James F. (Edna)

Burns, Mr. and Mrs. Robert (Jane)

Burns, Mr. and Mrs. Wayne (Elsie)
Lisa, Jimmy

Busby, Mrs. William (Kathy)

Butt, Mrs. J. E. (Helen)

Byrd, Mrs. R. L. (Essie)
Ricky, Shirley

Byrd, Mr. and Mrs. W. B. (Earlene)
Robert, Edwin

C

Cagle, John N.

Carroll, Mrs. Harvey C. (Agnes)
Lt. Col. H. C.

Carroll, Mr. and Mrs. Jack (Dot)
Jack, Melanie

Choplin, Mrs. Paula L.

Clark, Mrs. Barbara
Edward, Lori Ann

Clark, Mr. and Mrs. Lester B. (Louise)

Clarkin, Mrs. J. R. (Blanche)
Cathy

Clements, Frank A.

Cockman, Mr. and Mrs. George, Jr.
(Lorraine)

Cockman, Mr. George, III

Coggin, Mrs. C. E.

Coleman, Mrs. Thomas J. (Bea)

Collins, Mr. and Mrs. Craig (Janet)
Cara

Conder, Mrs. P. H. (Oma Lee)

Cook, Mr. and Mrs. L. D. (Lib)

Cooper, Mr. and Mrs. Alton W.

Cooper, Mr. and Mrs. W. H.

Copley, Mrs. Luke H.

Couey, Mr. and Mrs. Harold

Covar, Mr. and Mrs. J. G.

Crooke, Mr. and Mrs. J. W. (Macey)

Crow, John Mark

D

Davenport, Mr. and Mrs. David H.
(Coleen)

Davenport, Mr. and Mrs. David, Jr.
(Lynda)
Scott

Davenport, Mrs. J. L., Sr. (Ruth)

Davenport, Mr. and Mrs. J. L. III
(Elaine) Pam

Davenport, Tommy

Davis, Mrs. O. D., Jr. (Phyllis)
Harris

Dawkins, Mr. and Mrs. C. D., Jr.
(Lillian) Randy Reese

Dean, Mrs. J. M. (Ann)

DeMay, Mrs. Merrie

Dozier, L. B.

Dunn, Mr. and Mrs. Ernest (Blanche)

E

Easter, Mrs. Betsy Brown
Tim, Mark, Joe

Easterling, Mrs. Ed (Mamee)

Ellis, Mrs. K. D.

Eubanks, Mrs. P.R. (Glenda)

Evans, Mrs. Ronnie (Lynn)
Kelly

F

Ferree, Mr. and Mrs. Donald G. (Edna)

Fincher, Mr. and Mrs. Leo

Folger, Mrs. G. O. (Elizabeth)

Freeman, Mr. and Mrs. I. L. (Nora)

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